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SOWERBY BRIDGE
Urban District Council

Annual
REPORT



of the
DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(N. E. GORDON,
M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

and the
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
(Wm. E. FOSTER,
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.)

for the Year
1956

Trew & Edwards Ltd., Town Hall Street, Sowerby Bridge.
Telephone 81341 Halifax

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Urban District of Sowerby Bridge

1956-57

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor C. W. MAUDE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Councillor W. F. TURNER

Members of the Council :

Coun. G. A. Benbow, J.P.	Coun. C. Hollas
.. A. Butterworth	.. T. H. Longbottom
.. W. Crossfield, J.P.	.. A. Leech
.. Miss E. Judson	.. Mrs. E. Bagshaw
.. H. Wilcock	.. E. Rowe
.. E. English	.. A. Standeven
.. E. Lumb, J.P.	.. W. Tate
.. A. Crossfield	.. Miss L. Wilson
.. W. Greenwood, J.P.	.. J. C. Bower
.. H. Haigh	.. W. L. Parker
.. E. Broderick	.. J. W. Barber

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee :

Coun. G. A. Benbow (Chairman)
.. J. C. Bower (Vice-Chairman)
.. Mrs. E. Bagshaw
.. A. Crossfield
.. W. Crossfield, J.P.
.. W. Greenwood, J.P.
.. E. Rowe
.. W. F. Turner
.. Miss L. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

W. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

J. GOULDEN.

— :: —

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District—

Divisional Medical Officer :

As above (M.O.H.).

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer :

*NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics :

*ALICE SEELIG, M.D. (Retired January, 1956).

Health Visitors :

E. B. NOWERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N.

*M. O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

M. SOUTHWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

*B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker :

*E. C. WROE, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.N., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified) :

*Mrs. M. H. GRAHAM, B.A.

Midwives

*A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.

*D. SANDERSON, S.R.N., C.M.B., Queen's Nurse.

*M. HOLDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Relief Midwife for whole
Divisional Area).

Home Nurses :

- A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse.
*A. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.
A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.
*K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N.
*E. S. SIDDALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse (Relief
Home Nurse for whole Divisional Area).
* Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

Clerical Staff—**Senior Divisional Clerk :**

H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S.

Deputy Senior Divisional Clerk :

Miss J. SUTCLIFFE.

Clerks :

J. GREENWOOD (Resigned 18-11-56).
Miss P. JACKSON.
D. HOWORTH.
D. THOMAS.
Mrs. L. BARKER.
Mrs. M. REDFERN.
Miss J. HORNER.
Mrs. J. E. SUTCLIFFE.
Miss B. MARSHALL.
Miss M. J. CROWTHER (Commenced 15-10-56).

— :: —

**HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE****Consultant Staff****Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon :**

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Chest Physician :

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

S. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden.

December, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Tenth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Ripponden and Hebden Royd, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year show that the birth rate has reached its highest level since 1948 and is considerably higher than that for the rest of the division. For the fourth consecutive year there has been a considerable excess of births over deaths but it is interesting to note that this has in no way affected the steady decline in the population of the district, which has now fallen to 18,260.

The notifications of infectious diseases for 1956 show the continued absence of any serious epidemic. There were, however, a considerable number of cases of dysentery reported, affecting several families. As is so often the case, there was rapid spread within the family circle and between young children in neighbouring households. The disease is generally mild in nature but is extremely difficult to control as one must insist on the strictest standards of personal hygiene, in particular the washing of hands after use of the toilet and before preparing or eating food, and absolute cleanliness of all communal articles such as towels and play-things. It is no easy task enforcing these instructions with young children even when an indoor W.C. and a hot water supply are available: homes with such facilities are in the minority in Sowerby Bridge.

Tuberculin Survey of Infants born in Sowerby Bridge in 1953-54

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. Lyons, in co-operation with the Chest Physician, Dr. B. Mann, organised a comprehensive survey to ascertain the incidence of tubercular infection in infants in the district. The scheme covered all babies born between October 1953 and September 1954 inclusive, and it was proposed that each should have a tuberculin jelly skin test, a harmless and painless procedure, every three months until its second birthday. The results are outlined in the following summary :—

Total live births Sowerby Bridge U.D.C. between October 1st, 1953, and September 30th, 1954	268
No. of infants whose parents consented to survey	223 (83.2%)
No. of infants whose parents refused survey ...	30 (11.2%)
No. of infants who have received periodic tuber- culin tests	213 (79.5%)
No. of infants eliminated from survey by reason of removal from district	41 (15.3%)
No. of infants eliminated by reason of death ...	6 (2.2%)
No. of infants eliminated by reason of B.C.G. vaccination as contacts of known cases ...	5 (1.8%)
No. of positive reactors discovered	2 (0.7%)
Approximate number of tuberculin tests performed	1496

The two infants found to be positive reactors were investigated clinically by the consultant chest physician and possible sources of infection were investigated. In the case of one infant there was no evidence of disease and X-rays showed the family contacts to be clear. The second infant, however, was found to have a “primary tuberculous complex” and became a notified case. Investigation of the other members of the family revealed that the mother was suffering from hitherto unsuspected pulmonary tuberculosis and that an elder brother had also been infected. All three were admitted to hospital and have responded to treatment.

In view of the amount of raw undesignated milk retailed in the district at the time it was anticipated that there would be a relationship between milk supply and tuberculosis in infants but it is noteworthy that although 30% of these infants were exposed to the hazards of milk which was neither graded T.T. nor pasteurised, no case of infection could be attributed to it.

In the course of the two years' observation of each infant, 88 of the 268 families changed their address, 41 of them leaving the urban district. In the majority of cases, migration was confined to Sowerby Bridge and Halifax. It was generally an attempt to secure more adequate accommodation for an increasing family and a further reflection on the fact that so many houses in the district are totally unsuitable for bringing up children.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their consideration, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Foster, Public Health Inspector, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts, personal and official.

I am, yours faithfully,

N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Vital Statistics

STATISTICS

Area (Census 1951)	5,763 acres
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of	
Resident Population, mid-1956 ...	18,260
Population (Census 1951)	18,770
Number of dwelling-houses	6,931
Rateable Value (1-4-56)	£132,942
Product of a Penny Rate (year 1956-7) ...	£510-19-2

Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	299 17	151 8	148 9	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident Population: 17.3
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	4 —	1 —	3 —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 9 12.5
Deaths of infants under 1 year— Legitimate Illegitimate	12 —	6 —	6 —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) : 38.0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age— Legitimate Illegitimate	11 —	5 —	6 —	
All Deaths	254	116	138	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 13.9

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.

					1955		1956	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	2	—	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	7	1	2	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	1	—	5	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	6	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	2	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	14	7	11	16
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	10	19	8	24
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	19	16	28	21
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	2	2	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	23	28	8	28
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	5	2	2	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	1	3	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	2	8	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	2	9	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	3	2	3	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	3	1	3	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and Diarrhœa	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	—	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	2	—	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	9	12	9	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	1	1	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	3	7	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	1	2	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES					118	114	116	138

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1956

Based on Registrar General's Figures.

	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Ripponden U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todmorden M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE :— (per 1,000 estimated population)	17.3	14.2	14.6	11.4	14.4	15.8	16.4	15.7
DEATH RATES :— (All per 1,000 estimated home population).								
All Causes	13.9	14.6	16.0	13.6	13.6	12.6	11.8	11.7
Infective and parasitic diseases*	0.05	—	—	—	0.11	0.07	0.07	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	0.11	—	—	—	—	0.11	0.11	0.11
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—	0.25	—	0.01	0.02	0.01
Cancer	2.52	2.53	2.63	2.23	2.24	2.05	1.89	2.08
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1.75	1.95	3.14	2.98	1.80	2.05	1.86	* *
Heart and circulatory diseases†	5.09	6.81	6.08	4.71	5.19	4.76	4.47	* *
Respiratory Diseases :—† (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.53	0.97	1.32	0.99	1.58	1.37	1.29	* *
INFANT MORTALITY :— (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	38.0	27.4	6.9	65.2	22.8	25.9	27.1	23.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY :— (Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy or childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	6.25	—	—	—	—	0.69	0.52	0.56

* Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis, measles, and other infective and parasitic diseases (items 3—9 incl. on page 10).

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system (items 18—21 incl. on page 10).

† Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system (items 22—25 incl. on page 10).

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are now only available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g., Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required: they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

(B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

(C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds.

(D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division.

A supply of re-agents for diphtheria and whooping-cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccine is also issued, as available, in accordance with the approved arrangements.

SECTION III

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Thursdays	} 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	Fridays	
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal		
Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Mondays	} 10 a.m. to 12 noon
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	1st & 3rd Fridays in month	

School Clinics

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge		
(a) Minor Ailments	Mondays	10 a.m. to 12 noon
(b) Ophthalmic	As required	} by appoint- ment
(c) Ear, Nose and Throat	As required	
(d) Artificial Sunlight	Tuesdays Fridays	

Smallpox Vaccination

Diphtheria Immunisation

Whooping-Cough Immunisation

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

The Institute, Luddenden Foot

At any Minor Ailments or Welfare Clinic, by arrange-
ment with Medical Officer.

(B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

**Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot
Ante-Natal Clinics**

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	706

Child Welfare Clinics

Total number of children who attended during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	564
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	3317

Home Visiting of Infants

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers	...	...	...	...	...	...	313
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	295
Total number of visits to children under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	1118
Total number of visits to children aged 1-2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	835
Total number of visits to children aged 2-5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	1383

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.

A variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are sold at the Child Welfare Centres for the convenience of mothers.

National dried milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are also distributed at the Centres under revised arrangements instituted in July 1954, when the County Council became responsible for this service.

Care of Premature Infants

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were four full-time Home Nurses and two full-time Midwives employed in 1956. Two of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional Area.

Midwifery Service

Number of home confinements	...	...	...	95
Number of hospital confinements	...	...	...	218

Analgesia.—The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. It is hoped that more mothers will make use of this valuable service.

(D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(E) Home Helps

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1956, 70 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 73 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 7,587.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households “where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age.”

Of the 70 cases attended in 1956, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons: 11 maternity and 59 chronic sick.

(F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district	...	...	...	20
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1956	...	...	...	2982
Number of children examined at school during 1956	...	...	...	632
this figure being made up as follows :—				
Routine examinations	...	...	...	561
Re-examinations	...	...	...	71
Number of children referred for treatment	...	...	...	18

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and whooping-cough and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation, 1956

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed Injections 1956	82	53	12	4	4	7	9	5	2	1	2	1	-	-	-

Total 182

Immunised in previous years re-treated 1956	-	-	-	-	5	26	22	16	15	9	2	2	-	1	-
---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---

Total 98

(ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31-12-56

Age at 31/12/56 i.e., born in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
No. immunised	82	137	161	177	176	1156	1150	3039

Estimated Mid-year population (under 15 years) 4008

Whooping-cough Immunisation

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who completed a full course of Whoping-cough Immunisation, 1956

Age at final injection	Under 6 months	6 months to 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	Total
No. immunised	2	105	33	7	3	150

(ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children at 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation **at any time before that date.**

Age 31/12/56 i.e., born in year	Under 1 1956	1 1955	2 1954	3 1953	4 1952	5-9	Total
No. immunised	37	107	111	109	65	62	491

During the year there were 8 notified cases of whooping-cough. None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

Vaccination against Smallpox, 1956

157 people were vaccinated against smallpox during the year, 107 of whom were children under the age of one year. Many of the children were vaccinated at the Child Welfare Centres at Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1956

Disease	Total cases notified					
Scarlet fever	4
Whooping-cough	8
Acute poliomyelitis	1
Measles	4
Diphtheria	—
Dysentery	24
Meningococcal infection	1
Acute pneumonia	18
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or typhoid fever	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—
Erysipelas	3
Food poisoning	1
Puerperal pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis	16
Other forms of tuberculosis	2
Total						82

Tuberculosis

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Sowerby Bridge in 1956

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
No. on Register on 1st Jan., 1956	66	54	120	20	9	29	149
No. first notified during 1956	10	6	16	1	1	2	18
No. of cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	3	4	7	—	—	—	7
No. removed from Register during 1956—							
(a) Died	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
(b) Removed from district	9	6	15	1	—	1	16
(c) Recovered	5	4	9	2	1	3	12
No. remaining on Register 31/12/56	64	53	117	18	9	27	144

REPORT

of the

Senior Public Health Inspector

For the Year ending 31st December, 1956

— :: —

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee of the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on (a) the general sanitary conditions in the area ; (b) the housing conditions, including overcrowding; (c) the inspection and supervision of food ; for the year ending 31st December, 1956, and for the cleansing services for the year ended 31st March, 1957.

This year, 1956, the Urban District celebrated one hundred years of Local Government, and to commemorate this a Centenary Exhibition was held in the town centre, not only showing the various aspects of the work of the Local Authority, but also covering the work and industry of the district over the past century. Also included were schools' exhibitions and arts and crafts.

The exhibition showing the work of the Local Authority was very full and varied, and dealt with all the Departments, together with the changes in those Departments over the years. The section on Public Health showed some striking evidence of the progress made over the past hundred years, this being most noticeable in connection with the details given in relation to the prevention and notification of infectious disease.

Cases of Smallpox, Typhoid and Diphtheria at this time were very prevalent, and deaths from these diseases were very considerable. Although the notifications varied very considerably from year to year, there was a constant overall reduction in the number of such cases. With the introduction of vaccination, immunisation and the improvement of sanitary conditions, mainly in relation to water supplies and sewerage systems, the number of notifications of these once dreaded diseases is now almost non-existent.

The picture is very much the same regarding infantile and maternal mortality. The deaths in children a hundred years ago under one year of age were very considerable, and

the deaths in mothers bearing children were also high, and although these were reduced it has not been until comparatively recent times that they have become almost non-existent.

Since the early days, the district has been enlarged on several occasions, and has increased in size ten-fold, from approximately 563 acres to 5,866 acres. The population has increased, but not in proportion to the size of the district.

The services of the Authority have improved out of all recognition, and speaking for those administered by my Department these consist mainly in the improvement of the sanitary conditions, housing and public cleansing.

It may be hard to visualise conditions in this area one hundred years ago, but according to the records they were appalling. The sanitary conditions were most objectionable, the majority of the water supplies were unsatisfactory, the drainage systems were offensive, overflowing and defective. The methods of cleansing the sanitary and refuse accommodation, from privies, ashpits, etc., by their very nature were most objectionable, fouling the pavements and causing all types of disease. The accommodation was most inadequate, whole blocks of property having to use one privy.

The small townships had grown up in a very haphazard manner, of which those of Sowerby and Warley were no exception. The atrocious sanitary conditions, giving rise to the spread of disease, caused grave concern. This led to petitions and enquiries.

William Ranger undertook to report fully on the sanitary conditions of these townships, and his report of February 1855 and 1856 dealt in the main with the very unsatisfactory housing and sanitary conditions. As a result of such petitions and enquiries, and the necessity for improvements in these townships, the local sanitary authority was born, **and this was the beginning of Local Government in this area.**

One notable change in the district and this report, is that in the Annual Report of 1906 (50 years ago) the Inspector reported that 48 canal boats had been inspected, on a waterway which was used extensively. At the present time the waterway is not used, much of it is completely overgrown with weeds and there are no canal boats operating, even on the lower reaches of this waterway.

The district has travelled a long way since the introduction of Local Government to this area. The services administered by the Local Authority have been reviewed and constantly improved from time to time, and those of the Public Health Department have been amongst the most prominent.

Many private water supplies have been either improved or condemned, and the public main extended, new sewers have been provided and entirely new drainage systems have been designed. The methods of refuse collection and disposal have also been in the forefront of these improvements. There is still, however, much to do in the basic improvements. The privy and ashpit in this district are now almost non-existent, these have been reduced in comparatively recent years from more than 400 to 8, but the pail closet still exists, and will be with us for many years, due to the lack of adequate sewer or water supply, especially in the outer districts ; a glaring example being in the Norland area where the majority of pails exist and are likely to continue due to the lack of suitable outfall. A school is also included in this area—the Council have made efforts to improve the position by making representation to the Ministry, but little progress has been made.

Efforts for sanitary improvements have for the most part been concentrated in the out-districts, where a number of sewers have been provided. These include Mill Bank, Norland, Triangle and Midgley, and the extension of the water main has also taken place in these districts, including Sowerby, which has resulted in an improvement in the sanitary conditions.

To some, the provision of an adequate and wholesome water supply is all-important, whether it be the extension of the main or alternatively the complete overhaul of an existing private supply. To me it is most distressing to find such a strong resistance that has had to be overcome in the acceptance of the Town's supply in several of these districts. In 1956 one would expect to find that such conditions were an accepted fact, or alternatively demanded by the public, but how disillusioned one becomes—what has done for one's grandfather apparently, in many instances, still satisfies—until perhaps one suggests that this should appertain also for the return of one's labours.

The improvement over the years has also extended to the Public Cleansing services, and these continue, both regarding collection and disposal, together with the collection of salvage, to give satisfactory service. During the year one great step forward has been the acquisition of a Tractor Muledozer for the work on the tip at Milner Royd. This tip, which receives approximately one hundred tons of varying types of refuse weekly, including trade and slaughter-house refuse, has in the past caused deep concern. Two attendants have been responsible for controlling the tip, but it has been found extremely difficult to retain suitable labour

for this disagreeable work. When it is realised that such work requires the attendants to constantly work in and around the refuse, sometimes verminous, always objectionable, there is little wonder why labour is difficult to recruit and almost impossible to retain. This has resulted in the tip becoming increasingly untidy, conducive to all types of infestation and eventually to resemble a crude infested dump.

It was therefore with the greatest possible pleasure that arrangements were made for demonstrations of the various types of tractors and bulldozers, and after much thought a tractor was purchased, consideration also being given to the many other tasks which this machine was capable of doing in connection with other Departments. For the first year, improvement of the tip was the first consideration. The results have been almost staggering. The tip was improved, infestation and tip fires completely eliminated, and the cost less than when controlled manually, and it is expected that this cost will be even further reduced next year. I look forward with interest to the time when it will be possible to find an alternative to manpower for the many objectionable jobs which still have to be carried out in the Public Cleansing Department.

The Council have been fully alive to this question, and many major improvements have been made; firstly, the mechanisation on the tip, a power press for waste paper disposal, additional storage for waste paper, low loading and gravity packing refuse collectors, adequate washing facilities at the depot, Municipal Ashbin Scheme, almost complete abolition of the privy, but the one black spot—450 pail closets which still require emptying weekly. With the conversion schemes now in hand, together with the improvement in water supplies and sewers, it is hoped to reduce these to an absolute minimum in six years.

Very little headway has been made with the housing position relating to slum clearance. The poor housing conditions which exist within the Urban District have been stressed on many occasions, and reports presented as required by the Housing Act, but at the year end it was most disappointing to find that no definite decision had been made regarding a clearance programme.

It is appreciated that many difficulties have presented themselves, one of the greatest being the high cost of building, with the consequent high rents, but has not the time arrived when we should have a proper appreciation of values? Has the television set and perhaps other luxuries to which we have been accustomed, become of greater value

than a properly equipped home ? Nobody wishes to deprive anyone of these new found pleasures, but let us get the things in the right perspective, and put first things first.

The year has again seen additional legislation, with the new Food and Drugs Act, one of the most important provisions being the Food Hygiene Regulations. These Regulations will enable the Department, where necessary, to require the provision of additional washing facilities, hot and cold water, together with certain other equipment in premises where " open " food is sold. There are in the area many shops which will require little or no alteration, but there are many others where major alterations, at considerable expense, will be necessary.

It is always pleasing to be able to meet the Members of the Public Health Committee informally, and again this year several meetings in relation to the demonstration of the bulldozers were held, and another excursion, to the Thames Board Mills, where all the members of the Cleansing Staff were invited, together with members of the Council. The outing was well worth while, and gave both members of the Council and the employees in the Cleansing Department a first-hand opportunity of seeing the results of the waste paper which is collected in the district.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to my Chairman, Councillor G. A. Benbow, and also to the Public Health Committee for their assistance in the various duties undertaken by the Department, and also to both Dr. J. Lyons, Medical Officer of Health, who was succeeded by Dr. N. E. Gordon, for the help which they have so readily given at all times.

My thanks are also due to the staff of the Department, Mr. J. Goulden, the Additional Inspector, also to the Clerical Staff, together with the Foreman and the Employees of the Cleansing Department, who have carried out the objectionable work of cleansing and disposal of refuse in such an efficient manner.

In addition I should like to thank all the Officials of the Council, who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

W. E. FOSTER,

A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supply

The Public Water Supply, which is distributed throughout the majority of the district, continues to give satisfaction, as the chemical and bacteriological samples have proved.

The Norland area is partly covered by a Public Supply, whilst the Ripponden Supply feeds parts of the Mill Bank and Triangle areas. These waters also continue to give satisfaction, as the samples indicate.

The Norland and Ripponden Supplies have also been sampled for Plumbo Solvency, and upon examination no trace of lead was found.

It is pleasing to note the continued extension of the Town's main in the outer districts, and as the following table shows, the majority of Sowerby Town and Midgley now have the Public Water Supply available. These two districts have been black spots for some considerable time, having several water supplies which were unsatisfactory and inadequate.

Details of the extension of the water main are set out as follows :—

Sowerby	...	...	...	...	680 yds. of 3in. pipe
Midgley	...	...	...	...	1,750 yds. of 3in. pipe
Sowerby Housing Estate	...			...	100 yds. of 3in. pipe

Private Supplies

The private supplies remain much in evidence in various parts of the district. Again, it is pleasing to report the decreasing number of polluted supplies which are coming to light. A considerable number of dwellinghouses are still dependent on private supplies, but these for the most part are reasonably satisfactory.

As I have already mentioned, Sowerby and Midgley have now available a wholesome supply of water. This necessary improvement will enable the sanitary conditions in many of the properties to be improved, which will contribute in no small way to the improvement of the dwellings, and also assist materially in the housing problem of the district. Many of the houses in these out-districts are substantially built, but they lack reasonable sanitary conditions, and the first essential for these improvements is a wholesome and plentiful supply of water.

The table outlined below shows that some 73% of the samples obtained were unsatisfactory. This is by reason of the fact that work has been concentrated on supplies which have been in some degree suspicious, or in the opinion of the Department open to pollution. This has enabled the Council to cover these supplies by the extension of the Town's main.

Details of the sampling over the year are set out below.

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Midgley	3	11	14
Luddendenfoot	14	47	61
Sowerby	2	3	5
Triangle	4	3	7
Norland	1	9	10
Halifax Corporation Supply	3	—	3
Totals	27	73	100

Plumbo-Solvency — 4 Satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

The general maintenance work on the sewers has continued during the year, but apart from this no major schemes of improvement have been undertaken. Parts of the district still require an adequate sewer, one of the most important being the Norland area.

There has once again been a considerable amount of work completed in the re-construction and the testing of defective drainage systems which have been found either on routine inspection or as a result of complaint. During the year 389 inspections and visits have been made in relation to defective drainage systems, and the inspection of works in progress. The water test has been applied to all re-constructed drainage systems during the year.

In addition, mainly as a result of complaint, 59 choked drainage systems have been attended to under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, no charge being made. This work is generally of a minor nature, where rodding is mainly required. Where more extensive works are necessary, and excavation and

exposure of the defective drain required, then this is a matter for the owner in question, but is usually carried out at his request by the Department, and any costs incurred are recovered.

Sewage Disposal

The Sewage Disposal Works at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge, and High Royd, Luddenden Foot, continue to give satisfaction. There have been no complaints during the year from the Rivers Board. The matter of trade effluent is under consideration by both Committees, and in the case of the Luddenden Foot Joint Sewerage Board, the plans appear to be well advanced.

Sanitary Accommodation

The improvement of the sanitary conditions has continued during the year, with the conversion of the pails and privies to the water carriage system. All the work has once again been completed by negotiations rather than by formal procedure, and a grant towards the cost of conversion of £7 10s. 0d. has been made in each case.

During the year, some 14 pails have been converted, together with 3 privies. The number of pails is now 497, and the number of privies remaining in the district is 12.

The progress in conversions has been rather slower this year, due to the difficulty with sewers and water supply, but with the recent extensions it is hoped to reduce considerably the number of pails in the district. The majority of the privies are now associated with very old properties in most inaccessible positions, and it is hoped that these will be reduced in number immediately the houses can be suitably dealt with under the Housing Act. The percentage of houses on the water carriage system is almost 90%.

The types of accommodation in the Urban area are set out as follows :—

Number of Privies	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	497
Number of Pedestal W.C.s, including factories and shops	...	...	...	...	...	4,515
Number of Trough Closets	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	16
						<hr/> 5,061 <hr/>

The pails and privies are mainly in the out-district, and are set out as follows :—

District	Pails	Privies	Ashpits
Triangle and Mill Bank	54	4	—
Sowerby Bridge	24	—	—
Norland	111	2	—
Sowerby and Blackwood	117	5	—
Luddendenfoot	116	—	—
Midgley	75	1	—
Totals	497	12	—

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE

Refuse Collection

The entire cleansing of the district, with the exception of street cleansing, continues to be under the jurisdiction of the Public Health Department. Included under this heading is both the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse throughout the area, together with the cleansing of pails and privies. The collection of waste paper and other salvageable material is also undertaken, a special collection being made at the shops and factories for waste paper.

All the ashbins of the inner area are emptied weekly, but the properties in the outer district, consisting of Norland, parts of Sowerby, Blackwood and the outer parts of Luddenden and Midgley, are on a fortnightly basis. This is approximately 10% of the total number of bins in the district.

Difficulty still exists with recruiting suitable labour, and it becomes increasingly difficult to keep the rounds completely up to date under these conditions. The work is, I feel, the most arduous on the Council and can, from time to time, be very objectionable, especially on the night soil round.

The average number of bins emptied on the weekly round, per man per day, is 168, and when long paths and steps have to be encountered it is very discouraging to the men to find that they are constantly behind with the work. The employees, generally speaking, are good workers and quite conscientious, but the financial return for this type of work is, in my opinion, low, and it is quite understandable why many seek alternative employment, usually with a greater return.

The collection of house refuse compares favourably with any in the West Riding. From the details of the work which has been completed by the vehicles in the Department, it will be observed that during the year a greater number of ashbins have been emptied, whilst the number of pails and privies has reduced. The approximate amount of refuse delivered to the tip exceeds 100 tons per week.

Details of the work completed by the vehicles is set out as follows :—

Vehicle	Ashbins	Ashpits	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cwts.
Karrier No. 6	9,525	—	—	335	319	—
Bedford No. 7	8,584	58	—	376	335	10
Bedford No. 8	6,509	28	27,859	778	787	—
S. & D. No. 9	105,696	—	—	507	1,518	10
S. & D. No. 10	109,742	—	—	530	1,569	—
Karrier No. 11	20,345	—	—	712	673	10
Total	260,401	86	27,859	3,238	5,202	10

Transport

Details of the transport operated by the Department is as follows :—

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
6	Karrier Bantam (taken out of service)	1946	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins, Salvage, Trade Refuse
7	Bedford	1947	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins
8	Bedford	1949	7 cu. yds.	Pails and Pits
9	S. & D. Rear			
	F. & A. Loader	1951	18 cu. yds.	Ashbins
10	S. & D. Rear			
	F. & A. Loader	1954	18 cu. yds.	Ashbins
11	Karrier Bantam (brought into service)	1956	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins, Salvage, Trade Refuse
	Fordson Tractor	1956	Shovel and Blade	Refuse Disposal

During the year the new Karrier was put into operation, to the exclusion of the old Karrier 6. The Karrier has worked extremely well for the Department on the out-districts during the past ten years, and in view of the unmade roads and very difficult approaches which have to be negotiated, the maintenance costs have been extremely low.

It will be noticed that five vehicles are available, but only four operate regularly. The fifth is kept as a spare, and has again proved extremely useful when other vehicles have been under repair, and also immediately after holidays when the vehicles have concentrated mainly on the cleansing of bins, whilst the spare vehicle has been used for the collection of trade refuse and salvage.

The garages at Mearclough continue to house the vehicles satisfactorily, although with the acquisition of the Tractor, it is becoming increasingly difficult to house all the vehicles under one roof. Additional garage space may have to be provided in the near future. The employees continue to carry out maintenance work, including the greasing and cleaning of vehicles, outside the ordinary working week. This, of course, is due to the full time being necessary on the cleansing of the district.

The two Fore and Aft vehicles, which are used on the in-district rounds, have proved a great asset to the Department, as the size of the body is such that only two visits to the tip per day are necessary, thus cutting out additional travelling time and enabling a greater number of bins to be emptied. In view of the nature of the work the vehicles, generally speaking, are working satisfactorily, and the maintenance costs are reasonably low.

Accidents

During the year the vehicles have been involved in 15 accidents. These were as follows :—

Bedford 7	...	...	...	4
Bedford 8	...	...	...	1
S. & D. 9	...	...	...	4
S. & D. 10	...	...	...	4
Karrier 11	...	...	...	1
Bedford Van	...	...	...	1

I have been rather disappointed that the accident rate has been so high in the past year. This is more than double the previous year. One, however, must take into consideration the many unmade roads which the vehicles have to traverse in all weather conditions. I do feel, however, that if greater care had been exercised, and the instructions carried out, mainly in relation to the full use of the driver's mate when the vehicle is reversing, then some accidents could have been avoided. It is hoped that this accident rate will be reduced in the future.

Refuse Accommodation throughout the Area

The comparative figures for refuse storage in the district are set out below.

Year	Pail Closets	Privies	Ash Pits	Ash Bins
1950	655	51	—	6,197
1951	625	45	—	6,208
1952	629	30	—	6,229
1953	529	23	—	6,314
1954	520	16	—	6,384
1955	511	13	—	6,396
1956	497	12	—	6,410

As the improvement continues in the sanitary conditions, a reduction is shown in the number of pails and privies, whilst the number of ashbins continues to rise. The increase in the ashbins is not due solely to this reason, but is also due to ashbins provided to new houses and additional bins provided to communal accommodation.

Municipal Ashbin Scheme

The Municipal Ashbin Scheme was brought into operation in 1949, and whilst the price of the bins was comparatively low, the scheme worked very satisfactorily, the entire cost being borne by the Rate Fund. With the continuing increase in the price of bins, the annual cost has been constantly rising, which prompted the Council to give very careful consideration to the continuation of the scheme as at present, or whether to consider the alternative scheme of imposing an annual ashbin charge of 5s. 0d. per annum, as provided for under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and amending legislation. The alternative scheme was put into operation at the beginning of the year, and as with all schemes of such a nature there were certain teething troubles. These were ironed out during the year, and it is hoped that the scheme will work smoothly in the future.

At the present time, the scheme is bound to be rate-aided, but as the number of bins increase, all supplies and renewals, together with overheads, should be fully covered, and if there should be any reduction in the price of bins this will in turn be passed on to the property owners. Such a scheme enables a standardized type of receptacle to be obtained, and obviates correspondence between the owner and the Authority regarding replacement, as these are completed automatically.

Trade Refuse

The trade refuse throughout the district continues to be removed regularly. There has been no alteration during the year in the conditions of collection, one bin of refuse is removed free of charge and each additional bin or part thereof is charged at the rate of 1s. 0d. A considerable number of shops in the district have the trade refuse collected three times weekly (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays), whilst the majority of refuse, including all market refuse, is removed each Saturday.

The quantity of trade refuse removed during the year has amounted to approximately 159 tons, and has brought in a return of £245.

Refuse Disposal

The entire disposal of house refuse is carried out at Milner Royd, which caters for more than 100 tons of domestic and trade refuse and some 20 tons of other types of refuse weekly.

The site is rather difficult to work, being very steep, and this, coupled with shortage of suitable labour and lack of covering material, has meant that the tip has been most unsightly. In view of this, and in view of the very frequent firing and severe infestation from time to time, the method of disposal was considered at great length by the Committee. Many demonstrations of various types of tractors and other appliances for use in connection with controlled tipping, were worked on the site. One of the greatest difficulties was the fact that a multi-purpose machine was required, one that could be worked on tracks and yet easily converted to wheels ; a tractor that had both a bulldozer blade and some type of loading attachment. After very careful consideration of all appliances, a Fordson Tractor, with Rotaped tracks and high load shovel, was purchased.

A lot of very heavy work was necessary at the commencement, for the cutting down of the very deep faces which were the result of much haphazard tipping, and after six months a complete transformation was observed. The tracks were then removed and wheels fitted, and the work has since been carried out with such a tractor. There has been perfect compacting of all refuse, the tip has been completely free of infestation and there have been no tip fires. Although the covering material has been scarce, decomposed refuse in the vicinity has been used to great advantage.

The costs have been reduced, due firstly to the reduction in the labour force on the tip, and secondly due to the fact that when once the tip had been properly controlled it was possible to complete the controlling of the refuse and also have time to devote to other Departments of the Council.

During the year the amount of time given to the other Departments has been small, but in view of the present condition of the tip, it is anticipated that some 500 hours per year can be devoted to works in other Departments, mainly in connection with the loading of chippings for highways, the work on the sludge beds of the sewage works, the levelling of open spaces on the housing estates. The tractor has been also found extremely useful with the high load shovel for the loading of waste paper. The method now employed in controlling the tip with this type of machine has been the complete answer to a very vexed problem.

Salvage

The waste paper depot, which has now been in use for four years, continues to give satisfaction, but with the increase in the quantity of waste paper a difficulty has been experienced with the storage of the various types, and it is pleasing to note that a new storage depot will be available in the very near future. The Camco power press has been a great asset and continues to give complete satisfaction, with the minimum of maintenance costs.

The total tonnage of salvaged materials has exceeded the previous year by 37 tons, and now totals 273 tons. The value exceeds the previous year by £163, the total this year being £2,069.

There has, during the year, been an increase in the collection of waste paper over the 1955 returns, which has amounted to nearly 30 tons. This is very encouraging, but even better results could be obtained, as far too much waste paper still finds its way into the refuse bin. There has been some difficulty during the year in the disposal of waste paper, as quota restrictions have been imposed. The Council have, fortunately, an alternative outlet and they have not been embarrassed in this way.

The Department continues to encourage the saving of waste paper, but it is hoped that we will continue to find a suitable outlet. The waste paper is sorted into three types, these being Fibreboard, Newsprint and Mixed Waste. Further sorting would be uneconomical. The amount of waste paper

collected is more than one ton per 1,000 of the population, which is an extremely high yield, the average quantity being between 15 and 18 cwts. per 1,000 of the population in similar districts.

The bonus scheme for the employees continues to be paid each half year and acts, I feel, as an incentive for this additional duty. The bonus averages out at approximately 3d. per hour, or 10s. 0d. per week.

Details of the sale of residuals, together with the revenue from the same, are set out below.

Materials Salvaged	T	C	Q	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	197	19	0	1,474	3	6
Firebreboard	33	1	1	314	2	1
Newsprint	12	16	0	128	0	0
Ferrous Metals	25	7	1	87	10	2
Non-Ferrous Metals.....	—	6	1	17	11	6
Rags	1	8	2	35	12	6
Carpets	1	4	0	9	12	0
Mixed String	—	12	1	2	9	0
Totals	272	14	2	2,069	0	9

Since the Council started the salvaging of waste paper in 1939, more than 5,200 tons of material have been recovered, at a value of nearly £25,000—quite remarkable figures.

SALVAGE SALES, 1939 to 1956

Year	Total Tonnages for all Materials T. C. Q.	Waste Paper T. C. Q.	Ferrous Metals and Loose Tins T. C. Q.	Non- Ferrous Metals T. C. Q.	Textiles and Rubber T. C. Q.	Cullet T. C. Q.	Kitchen Waste and Bones T. C. Q.	£ s. d.
1939 to 1950	3,778 8 0	1,903 8 0	433 6 3	6 9 3	23 5 2	165 13 2	1,246 4 2	13,822 1 6
1951	238 0 1	162 11 3	14 14 0	5 1	5 1	— — —	60 4 0	2,742 8 9
1952	247 2 2	150 16 3	28 4 1	5 2	1 5 0	— — —	66 11 0	1,540 15 7
1953	280 13 2	186 14 2	26 9 0	2 1	1 1 3	— — —	66 6 0	1,521 17 0
1954	183 19 3	172 15 1	10 2 3	1 2	6 1	— — —	14 0	1,303 0 10
1955	235 15 3	215 15 0	19 3 1	1 1	16 1	— — —	— — —	1,905 19 0
1956	272 14 2	243 16 1	25 7 1	6 1	3 4 3	— — —	— — —	2,069 0 9
	5,236 14 1	3,035 17 2	557 7 1	7 11 3	30 4 3	165 13 2	1,439 19 2	24,905 3 5

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

The usual enquiries and visits in connection with the prevention of the spread of disease have been carried out during the year. The disease most prevalent was Sonne Dysentery, and in this connection 91 visits, including investigations, were made in various parts of the district. 53 specimens were taken and submitted for examination, of which 24 proved to be positive.

Full details of the visits, investigations, etc., are set out as follows :—

Enquiries into Infectious Disease	...	...	...	10
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	9
Visits re Sonne Dysentery	...	...	...	91
Visits re Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	7

Smoke Abatement

Due to pressure of work, atmospheric pollution has not received the attention that this important subject requires. It has been possible, however, to take 23 smoke observations, of which 9 showed excessive emission of black smoke. In all cases cautions were issued, but no formal action was taken.

I do not consider that the pollution of the atmosphere in the area has increased. It is possible that the position could be greatly improved, and I feel that with more factories discontinuing the steam engine as a source of power and utilising electricity for many more processes, this is a contributory factor towards the reduction of atmospheric pollution in the district.

Factories

During the year 8 visits have been made to the various factories in the district, as a result of which 2 contraventions of Section 7 of the Factories Act were observed. As a result of notification by H.M. Factories Inspector, 1 other contravention was notified. All were remedied. Details are set out as follows :—

Inspections

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority	21	2	—
Where Section 7 is enforced	122	6	—
Total	143	8	—

Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :			
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—
Total	2	3	1

Swimming Bath

The Public Swimming Bath, which is open during the summer season, has again been sampled for both chemical and bacteriological examination. 4 samples were obtained for chemical, and 6 for bacteriological examination. These were found to be satisfactory.

There are no private swimming baths or pools in this area.

Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

The number of inspections carried out during the year for Nuisances, under Part 3 of the Public Health Act, 1936, totalled 23. In addition, there were 7 items outstanding at the end of 1955, making a total of 30 which were dealt with during the year. 26 of these were abated, and there were 4 outstanding at the end of the year. All the items were dealt with in an informal manner, and no statutory notices were served. The total number of visits and inspections made for nuisances during this period was 75.

Offensive Trades

There have been no additions to the Register of Offensive Trades, and no applications have been received. At the end of the year 29 establishments were still on the Register, of which 28 were Fish Friers. There were no notices served during the year, and the number of inspections made at these premises totalled 5.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Visits
Bakehouses	3
Camping Sites	5
Conversions—Visits	46
Drainage, etc.	289
Factories	8
Flooding, etc.	6
Fried Fish Shops	3
Hairdressers	6
Houses Let in Lodgings	2
Interviews	182
Ministry of National Insurance—Burials	10
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	104
Offensive Trades	2
Outworkers	3
Petrol Pump Inspections... ..	61
Public Cleansing—Administration	78
Public Cleansing—Refuse Collection	218
Public Cleansing—Refuse Disposal	160
Public Cleansing—Salvage	75
Public Conveniences	8
Rodent Control (excl. Sewer Maintenance)	147
Sanitary Accommodation—Defects	37
Schools	5
Shops	17
Smoke Observations	23
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry	8
Sunday Trading	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds	4
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	2
Water Courses—Survey	7
Water Supplies	67
West Riding Court	5
	<hr/>
	1,598
	<hr/>

HOUSING

Inspection and repair of insanitary houses, and the investigation of complaints both under the Public Health and Housing Acts, has continued.

There was one application for a Certificate of Disrepair under the Repairs and Rents Act. It would appear that these rent increases have been settled by negotiation with the owner rather than application being made to the Local Authority.

During the year further reports were submitted under Part 1 of the Repairs and Rents Act, and in this respect some 427 visits and general surveys of properties were made. One of the most difficult problems was cutting down the number of houses to be included in the 20-year programme. Much of the property is sub-standard, but in order that the programme could be a realistic one it had to be such that the Council could deal with the problem and provide re-housing facilities at a reasonable rent. The total number of houses was reduced to 760, of which 185 were to be dealt with in the first five years.

The report was accepted in principle by the Health Committee, but it was most disappointing that a joint Health/Housing meeting should furnish a nil return on such an important matter. Further reports are being prepared, and further visits and surveys undertaken, but little headway can be made in this very important subject if re-housing facilities at a reasonable rent are not made available.

The overcrowding of the district was again reviewed, and at the end of the year there was a further reduction in the number of overcrowded houses in the district.

There is an ever decreasing number of inspections necessary in relation to verminous premises. During the year 12 visits were made in this connection, only 2 of which were for bed bug infestations. With the new insecticides and the constant vigilance of many of the families, this type of infestation will, I feel, be completely eradicated in the very near future. The remaining infestations were mainly in connection with cockroaches, which appear to be increasing in certain localities.

Inspections have continued during the year under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and for this purpose 11 inspections were made, and reports submitted on the same.

Under the Housing Act, 1949, as amended by the Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, there were 24 applications for Improvement Grants for the housing accommodation. Of these, 22 were granted, 1 was withdrawn and 1 rejected.

During the year 28 houses of permanent type were erected by the Council on the Sowerby site. There were no houses built by private enterprise.

The housing statistics for 1956 are set out as follows :—

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... .. 273
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 461
 - (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations Nil
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil
 - (3) Number of dwellinghouses needing further action :—
 - (a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7
 - (b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 243
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.
 - (a) Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... 19
 - (b) Number of defective dwellinghouses (excluding those shown in (a) above), in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action 190
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
 - A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :		
(a) By owners	... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority	... ..	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	4
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :		
(a) By owners	... ..	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwellinghouses unfit for habitation	... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	Nil
(4) Any action under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 ? If so, what ?	... ..	Nil
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil
E. Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of Clearance Areas represented during the year	... ..	Nil

(2)	Number of houses included in these areas	Nil
(3)	Number of persons to be displaced ...	Nil
(4)	Action taken during the year in respect of Clearance Areas :	
(a)	By Clearance Orders, number made	Nil
(b)	By Compulsory Purchase Orders, number made	Nil
(5)	Number of houses in Clearance Areas demolished during the year	Nil
(6)	Number of persons re-housed from houses demolished during the year	Nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.	
(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	21
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	23
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	119
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	8
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	49
5.	New Houses.	
	Number of new houses provided during the year :	
	By the Local Authority—	
	Permanent type	28
	Temporary type	Nil
	By Private Enterprise	Nil
6.	Housing Act, 1949.	
	Section 4—Any action in connection with advances for purpose of increasing housing accommodation	Nil
7.	Housing Act, 1949, as amended by Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.	
	Grants to persons other than local authorities for improvement of housing accommodation.	
	Any action during the year ? 24 applications, 1 withdrawn, 22 granted, 1 rejected.	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Distribution

During the year the following Licences were issued under the various Milk and Dairies Regulations :—

Supplementary Licences to Retail Pasteurised Milk	...	2
Supplementary Licences to Retail Tuberculin Tested Milk		4
Supplementary Licences to Retail Sterilised Milk	...	3
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Pasteurised	...	14
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Tuberculin Tested		4
Dealer's Licence to use the designation T.T./Pasteurised		9
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Sterilised	...	27

The pasteurising establishment, which is now under new management, has been improved and works very satisfactorily. The trouble experienced in previous years with the preparation and bottling of orange juice on these premises, has now been completely eliminated.

During routine inspections to farms, mainly in connection with water supplies and drainage, it has been observed that there is a marked deterioration in the present conditions, compared with the 1949 standard where the Local Authority had control of these establishments. These farms are producing an undesignated milk which is, almost without exception, going for pasteurisation, but nevertheless I still consider it necessary that the premises should be kept clean and reasonable standards of hygiene maintained.

Milk Sampling

During the year 10 samples of milk have been obtained from retailers in the district, all being from designated supplies. All the samples were satisfactory.

Food Inspection

Inspection of the food shops, cafés and restaurants, have been carried out during the year, and the details are set out as follows :—

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Butchers' Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fish Merchants and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	45
Food Preparing Establishments	...	...	...	...	17
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	...	...	22
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	7
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	2
Public Market	...	...	...	...	167
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	240
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	32
					<hr/> 597 <hr/>

The general condition of the premises is reasonably satisfactory, but the premises do not comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to make a detailed inspection of all the shops in the district, but it is hoped in the coming year to take the shops in groups, in order to secure the improvement and the general compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

As a result of inspections, the following food has been surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

				Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Meat	...	...	...	2	1	15	1
Fruit	...	...	...	1	—	2	2
Vegetables	...	...	...	—	—	12	—
Fish	...	...	...	—	—	5	2
Frozen Egg	...	...	...	—	1	16	—
Butter	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
				<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 5

6 tins Evaporated Milk.

Meat Inspection

There are 2 private slaughterhouses within the district, all the meat from which is inspected prior to distribution. A considerable amount of meat which is distributed within the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge is slaughtered at the Halifax Abattoir, the slaughtering facilities within the Urban District only catering for a very small part of the area.

Details of meat inspection in the district are set out as follows :—

	Cows	Cattle other than Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered	2	248	30	776	302
Number inspected	2	248	30	776	302
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	18	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	—	7.26 %	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	11	—	—	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	100 %	4.43 %	—	—	3.31 %
Number of visits for meat inspection purposes					317
Weight of meat condemned at slaughterhouses					725 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Application has been received from 17 butchers for a Licence to Slaughter Animals under the above Act. All these were granted.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream within the Urban District, all the shops retailing wrapped Ice Cream. Vans which are touring the area do, however, have both loose and wrapped ice cream available, but these, without exception, have washing facilities and comply in all respects with the Regulations.

During the year 11 visits were made to retailers in the district, and 6 samples were obtained, all of which were satisfactory.

There are 54 establishments retailing Ice Cream within the Urban District.

FOOD PREPARING ESTABLISHMENTS

Bakehouses

There has been a reduction of 2 bakehouses, which have been closed and taken from the register during the year. The number on the register at the end of the year was 15. 4 visits have been made to these premises, and the standards of cleanliness of these were found to be satisfactory.

The Model Bakery in the district continues to give satisfaction, and complies in all respects with the Regulations.

There are 6 cafés in the district, and during the year 6 visits have been made. The standard of cleanliness is reasonably satisfactory, but improvements will have to be made in the light of the new Regulations.

Market

The open market, which is controlled by the Council, continues to work satisfactorily. All the food stalls have been improved and comply in every way with the requirements under the new Regulations. Other stalls have also been improved, and washing facilities have now been made available for all stallholders.

Food Poisoning

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

Food Hawkers

At the present time there are 28 Food Hawkers on the register, which is kept under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. Details of the registrations are as follows :—

- 11 dealing in Bread and Confectionery
- 8 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish
- 7 dealing in Ice Cream
- 2 dealing in General Foodstuffs

Petroleum Acts and Orders

At the commencement of the year the following Licences were issued :—

Storage of Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	39
Storage of Cellulose Paint and Petroleum Mixtures						4
Storage of Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	...		2

During the year, 44 inspections were made at the Petrol Stations and Factories, in connection with the issuing of these Licences.

Rodent Control

The work of rodent control is still carried out by a part-time operative, together with a certain amount of time which is devoted to this work by the inspectors.

There has been one major infestation, which was on the Council tip and was most successfully dealt with by Warfarin and Oatmeal. Three complete treatments were undertaken, and more than 400 lbs. of bait were used. More than 100 bodies were recovered, and many more were destroyed in the tip face. The baiting was a complete success and there has been no re-infestation whatsoever.

During the year 102 houses, 43 business premises and 21 Local Authority properties have been inspected and treated. With the exception of the infestation referred to above, the remainder have been of a minor nature.

A re-infestation of rabbits has occurred at The Holmes Recreation Ground, and also at the Sowerby Bridge Cemetery. These are being dealt with by the Pests Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The treatment of sewers has again been undertaken, details of which are set out below :—

Section	No. of Man-holes	No. not baited	No. baited	Pre-bait takes			
				C	P	Total Takes	N.T.
Millbank/Triangle	69	18	51	2	4	6	45
Sowerby/Triangle	65	51	14	5	—	5	9
Luddenden Foot Dist.	77	53	24	3	6	9	15
Midgley	67	43	24	—	—	—	24
Beechwood	92	83	9	—	—	—	9
Sowerby/Ludd. Foot	99	74	25	—	—	—	25
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 1	92	72	20	—	2	2	18
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 2	124	73	51	5	16	21	30
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 3	121	87	34	4	8	12	22

C — Complete Take P — Partial Take NT — No Take

There are considerable areas which have been test baited, and show no signs whatsoever of infestation. These are on the Beechwood housing estate and the new housing estates at Sowerby and Midgley. The sewers also in the upper Midgley area show no sign of infestation.

The dwellinghouses in the district continue to be treated free of charge, whilst the business premises and factories are charged at a rate depending upon the length of time devoted to the work, and the amount of material used. The service is appreciated by the householders, and also the factory managers where complete disinfestation has resulted.

The details of the treatments during the year are set out below :—

Refuse Disposal Sites	...	...	...	...	...	4
Salvage Depot	...	...	...	...	...	3
Recreation Grounds	...	...	...	...	...	5
Private Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	16
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	20
Farms	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/> 49 <hr/>

